IN THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application. An identifier indicating the status of each claim is provided.

Listing of Claims

1. (Currently Amended) A method of processing a video signal to selectively permit copying thereof,

said video signal having an effective picture portion containing useful picture information from which a viewable picture is displayed and a non-picture portion in which is disposed vertical blanking identifying (VBID) data comprised of a plural-bit mode number and associated plural-bit data or data flags,

wherein said plural-bit mode number selectively classifies said associated plural-bit data or data flags as data or flags such that predetermined bits of said associated plural-bit data or data flags represent different information as a function of the classification by said plural-bit mode number,

said method comprising the steps of:

generating copyright information data indicative of whether the viewable picture is subject to copyright;

generating copy generation data indicative of the number of successive generations of copies that can be made from the processed video signal; ~~and~~

setting said predetermined bits as the copyright information data and the copy generation data when said plural-bit mode number classifies said associated plural-bit data or data flags as flags, thereby to produce said processed video signal, and

outputting said processed video signal to a receiving apparatus;

wherein the predetermined bits include copy control information data and a content type information data so that the receiving apparatus can control processing the processed video signal based on the copy control information data and the content type information data. ~~as the copyright information data and the copy generation data are included in each frame of the video signal.~~

2. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein said video signal contains line intervals and said copyright information data and said copy generation data are superposed in VBID data in respectively different line intervals.

3.-18 (Canceled)

19. (Currently Amended) A method of selectively recording a video signal having an effective picture portion containing useful picture information from which a viewable picture is displayed and a non-picture portion in which is disposed vertical blanking identifying (VBID) data comprised of a plural-bit mode number and associated plural-bit data or data flags,

wherein said plural-bit mode number selectively classifies said associated plural-bit data or data flags as data or flags such that:

when said plural-bit mode number classifies said associated plural-bit data or data flags as flags, predetermined bits of the associated plural-bit data flags represent copyright information indicative of whether the viewable picture is subject to copyright and copy generation information indicative of the number of successive generations of copies that can be made from the video signal, and

when said plural-bit mode number classifies said associated plural-bit data or data flags as data, said predetermined bits represent other information,

said method comprising the steps of:

detecting said copyright information and said copy generation information;

modifying the predetermined bits to indicate a decremented number of successive generations of copies that can be made from the video signal if said copyright information indicates that the viewable picture is subject to copyright;

recording the video signal having said copyright information and said modified copy generation information in said VBID data; ~~and~~

selectively inhibiting the recording of the video signal when said copyright information indicates that said viewable picture is subject to copyright and the detected copy generation information indicates that no successive generations of copies may be made from the video signal, and

outputting processed video signal data to a receiving apparatus;

wherein the predetermined bits include copy control information data and a content type information data so that the receiving apparatus can control processing the processed video signal based on the copy control information data and the content type

information data. ~~as the copyright information data and the copy generation data are included in each frame of the video signal.~~

20. (Original) The method of claim 19 wherein said step of modifying the predetermined bits comprises generating new copy generation information indicative of one less than the number of successive generations of copies which are indicated by the detected copy generation information, and superposing said new copy generation information in said VBID data of the video signal.

21. (Original) The method of claim 20 further comprising the steps of regenerating the detected copyright information, and superposing said regenerated copyright information in said VBID data of the video signal.

22. (Original) The method of claim 19 wherein said video signal contains line intervals and said copyright information and said copy generation information are superposed in VBID data in respectively different line intervals.

23. (Original) The method of claim 22 wherein said video signal contains frame intervals, each formed of field intervals, and said different line intervals are in the same field interval.

24. (Original) The method of claim 22 wherein said video signal contains frame intervals, each formed of field intervals, and said different line intervals are in different field intervals of the same frame interval.

25. (Original) The method of claim 19 wherein said video signal contains line intervals and said copyright information and said copy generation information are superposed in VBID data in the same line interval.

26. (Original) The method of claim 19 wherein said copy generation signal is a plural bit signal.

27.-33. (Canceled)

34. (Currently Amended) Apparatus for processing a video signal to selectively permit copying thereof,

said video signal having an effective picture portion containing useful picture information from which a viewable picture is displayed and a non-picture portion in which is disposed vertical blanking identifying (VBID) data comprised of a plural-bit mode number and associated plural-bit data or data flags,

wherein said plural-bit mode number selectively classifies said associated plural-bit data or data flags as data or flags such that predetermined bits of said associated plural-bit

data or data flags represent different information as a function of the classification by said plural-bit mode number,

said apparatus comprising:

means for generating copyright information data indicative of whether the viewable picture is subject to copyright;

means for generating copy generation data indicative of the number of successive generations of copies that can be made from the processed video signal; and

means for setting said predetermined bits as the copyright information data and the copy generation data when said plural-bit mode number classifies said associated plural-bit data or data flags as flags, thereby to produce said processed video signal, and

means for outputting processed video signal data to a receiving apparatus;

wherein the predetermined bits include copy control information data and a content type information data so that the receiving apparatus can control processing the processed video signal based on the copy control information data and the content type information data. ~~as the copyright information data and the copy generation data are included in each frame of the video signal.~~

35. (Original) The apparatus of claim 34 wherein said video signal contains line intervals and said copyright information data and said copy generation data are superposed in VBID data in respectively different line intervals.

36.-45 (Canceled)

46. (Currently Amended) Apparatus for selectively recording a video signal having an effective picture portion containing useful picture information from which a viewable picture is displayed and a non-picture portion in which is disposed vertical blanking identifying (VBID) data comprised of a plural-bit mode number and associated plural-bit data or data flags,

wherein said plural-bit mode number selectively classifies said associated plural-bit data or data flags as data or flags such that:

when said plural-bit mode number classifies said associated plural-bit data or data flags as flags, predetermined bits of the associated plural-bit data flags represent copyright information indicative of whether the viewable picture is subject to copyright and copy generation information indicative of the number of successive generations of copies that can be made from the video signal, and

when said plural-bit mode number classifies said associated plural-bit data or data flags as data, said predetermined bits represent other information,

said apparatus comprising:

means for detecting said copyright information and said copy generation information;

means for modifying the predetermined bits to indicate a decremented number of successive generations of copies that can be made from the video signal if said copyright information indicates that the viewable picture is subject to copyright;

means for recording the video signal having said copyright information and said modified copy generation information in said VBID data; ~~and~~

means for selectively inhibiting the recording of the video signal when said copyright information indicates that said viewable picture is subject to copyright and the detected copy generation information indicates that no successive generations of copies may be made from the video signal, and

means for outputting processed video signal data to a receiving apparatus;

wherein the predetermined bits include copy control information data and a content type information data so that the receiving apparatus can control processing the processed video signal based on the copy control information data and the content type information data. ~~as the copyright information data and the copy generation data are included in each frame of the video signal.~~

47. (Original) The apparatus of claim 46 wherein said means for modifying the predetermined bits comprises means for generating new copy generation information indicative of one less than the number of successive generations of copies which are indicated by the detected copy generation information, and means for superposing said new copy generation information in said VBID data of the video signal.

48. (Original) The apparatus of claim 47 wherein said means for recording includes means for regenerating the detected copyright information, and means for superposing said regenerated copyright information in said VBID data of the video signal prior to the recording of said video signal.

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49. (Original) The apparatus of claim 46 wherein said video signal contains line intervals and said copyright information and said copy generation information are superposed in VBID data in respectively different line intervals.

50. (Original) The apparatus of claim 49 wherein said video signal contains frame intervals, each formed of field intervals, and said different line intervals are in the same field interval.

51. (Original) The apparatus of claim 49 wherein said video signal contains frame intervals, each formed of field intervals, and said different line intervals are in different field intervals of the same frame interval.

52. (Original) The apparatus of claim 46 wherein said video signal contains line intervals and said copyright information and said copy generation information are superposed in VBID data in the same line interval.

53. (Original) The apparatus of claim 46 wherein said copy generation signal is a plural bit signal.

54.-85 (Canceled)

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